

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC East German Battery Plants

25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT September 1950 to June 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. The SAC AFO Battery Plant, the former Varta Battery Plant, is a plant of the SAC Kabel. The plant is located at 68/69 Wilhelminenhofstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide. The telephone number is 632131. The plant consists of an assembly department, a dismantling department, smelting works, foundry and carpentry shop. By order of the SCC in Berlin-Karlshorst (N 53/Z 94), tin and acid are supplied from the domestic production of the Soviet Zone of Germany. To date, the supplying plants are not known. Every three months the Gessner and Kreuzig firm in Niederschlag (N 51/X 72) supplies 10,000 kg of filter paper to the plant. The sources of the remaining raw materials, especially lead, could not be ascertained. About 500 workers are employed in the plant. Work is done in one shift. However, if substantial raw material supplies arrive overtime is worked to make up for the production lost by shortages of raw material. The daily production of 250 batteries for tanks are shipped from the plant in Soviet trucks. Batteries are shipped to Poland and Saxony. They are also delivered to postal authorities in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Additional data on shipments was not known.

2. Near the AFO Battery Plant are the SAC KWO Cable Works Oberspree at 76/77 Wilhelminenstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide (N 53/Z 94), the VEB TRO Transformer and High Tension Switch Plant at 83/85 Wilhelminenstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, the VEB Instrument Construction Plant Oberspree 91/92 Wilhelminenhofstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, the VEB Pertrix Plant at 53a Sedanstrasse in Berlin-Niederschchoeneweide, and the VEB FAF (Telecommunication and Apparatus Factory) at 172 Halepastrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide.

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3. The AFO Battery Plant produces 2.6 to 12 volt batteries for motorcycles, passenger cars, trucks, tanks, for train lighting and for the postal department. The daily quota is set at 250 batteries for tanks and 500 small batteries. The production target cannot always be reached due to the shortage of raw materials. For instance in April 1951, the daily production of batteries dropped to half of the quota due to the shortage of lead.

4. The Pertrix Factory is a plant of the VEB Ika (Vereinigung Volkseigener Betriebe fuer Installationen, Kabel und Apparate) (Association of Nationalized Plants for Installations, Cables and Apparatus). The plant is located at 53a Sedanstrasse in Berlin-Niederschchoeneweide. The plant produces the SAS-80 anode battery using

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magnesium chloride, and 135 x 215 x 70 mm; the BAS-60 anode battery using magnesium chloride, 110 x 172 x 48 mm; the BAS-60 plate anode battery using magnesium chloride - manganese dioxide, 170 x 110 x 48 mm; and the BAGS-60 anode battery. The BAS-80 anode batteries have an initial electromotive force of 100 volts, an initial current strength of 1 amp/h, decreasing to 0.8 amp/h after six months. The BAGS-60 anode battery has an initial electromotive force of 70 volts, an initial current strength of 1.2 amp/h, decreasing to 1.1 amp/h after six months. A total production of 26,000 anode batteries was reported for February 1951. In addition, torch and flashlight batteries are produced. Further information regarding the production was not known. To date, no information concerning the sources for raw materials is known. The number of workers employed in the plant is estimated at 1,500.

5. The Soviets take most of the production of the Peatrix Factory.   25X1

  Small amounts are being supplied to German consumers in the Soviet Zone. However, detailed information on these deliveries are not available. (2)

6. The Soviet Elektrotechnische A.G. Grubenlampenfabrik (Electrotechnical Corporation Miner's Lamp Factory), the former Freemann and Wolf Plant, is a plant of the SAG Kabel. The plant is located at 64-68 Reichenbacher Strasse in Zwickau (N 51/K 34), Saxony. The telephone number is Zwickau 5046. The plant produces lead cells for small portable storage batteries, automobile batteries, for the propulsion of trucks, nickel cadmium storage batteries for train lighting, and for the propulsion of vehicles, and portable and stationary batteries. The plant also produces charging equipment, mine safety lamps with nickel cadmium batteries, flashlights, gasoline safety lamps, acetylene lamps, compressed-air lamps (Pressluft-Leuchten), respirators and ventilating equipment. No recent information regarding production statistics was known. It was reported that the battery production target for April 1951 could not be met because of the lead shortage. The number of employees is estimated at 1,500, 500 of whom were women. The bulk of the production is delivered to the Soviets. Delivery data could be obtained only for April 1947, at which time the Soviets received 3,000 lead batteries, 1,500 miner's lamps, 7,000 acetylene lamps, and 1 battery charger. In the same month, the German Soviet Zone consumers were supplied with 819 lead batteries, 383 miner's lamps, and 1,711 acetylene lamps. In December 1949, it was reported that Poland placed an order with this plant for the delivery of products worth 130,000 dollars. Source did not know what other plants were located near the Freemann and Wolf Battery Plant in Zwickau. (5)

  Comments.

- (1) Information from another source confirmed the location of these plants.

  the SAG Wismut, Chemnitz-Hilbersdorf and   the Administrative Office for Soviet Army Supply Units, Potsdam.

- (5) To date, no information has been received on the Auto Union Plant for Electric Equipment in Chemnitz (N 51/K 66) and the Falk Battery Plant in Tabarz (M 51/H 95).

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